

World Bank Loan for Power Projects

4297. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank has threatened to cancel the loan to some of the power projects of the country; and

(b) the details of such projects alongwith the reason to cancel the loan?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Voluntary Retirement Scheme in NTC Mills

4298. SHRI P.V. RAJESHWAR RAO : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the employees of Netha Spinning Mills, Secunderabad, Andhra Pradesh, owned and controlled by National Textile Corporation were forced by the Management to sign the papers opting for Voluntary Retirement Scheme; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefore alongwith the details of action being contemplated against the erring management of Netha Spinning Mills, Secunderabad?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Export of Textiles

4299. SHRI K.P SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the present quota fixed for the export of textiles to the United States;

(b) whether there is growing demand to increase the textiles export quota to U.S.A.; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) to (c). Exports of textiles to the U.S.A. are regulated under the provisions of the Indo-U.S. textile agreement and the Agreement on Textiles and Clothing (ATC) of the W.T.O. A quantitative Restriction of approximately 511 million square metre equivalents (MSME) distributed over various categories of products, is the total quota for the exports of textiles and Clothing Products from India to the U.S.A., during 1996.

There is no specific provision in the ATC enabling increasing quotas on a bilateral basis between an exporting and an importing country.

Banking Licence to Foreign Banks

4300. SHRI C. NARASIMHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of Foreign Banks given permission for their banking business in India during 1996;

(b) whether the performance of these Banks is reviewed by the RBI from time to time in comparison to our Nationalised Banks; and

(c) the details of Foreign Banks likely to be set up during this financial year?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The following foreign banks have been given permission to open their maiden branch in India during 1996 :

1. Hanil Bank of Korea
2. Commercial Bank of Korea
3. Sumitomo Bank of Japan

In addition to the above banks, the following three existing banks in India have been allowed to open additional branches :

(b) Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank at Bangalore

1. Bank of Tokyo Mitsubishi Ltd. at Chennai
2. Deutsche Bank at Calcutta.

(c) The performance of foreign banks in India is being monitored with the help of returns submitted by them to different departments of RBI. The department of Supervision of the RBI also carries out annual inspection of these banks under Section 35 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949. Review of working of all foreign banks operating in India is also undertaken by Department of Supervision of RBI on annual basis.

(c) Following foreign banks to whom approvals have been granted to open their maiden branch in India are yet to open their branches :

1. Overseas Chinese Banking Corporation
2. Krung Thai Bank, Thailand
3. Tronto Dominion Bank, Canada
4. Hanil Bank of Korea
5. Commercial Bank of Korea
6. Sumitomo Bank of Japan.

No definite indication can be given regarding the likelihood of these branches being opened during the current financial year.

Export of Jute Goods

4301. DR. ASIM BALA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the export of diversified jute goods has gone up?

(b) if so, the details thereof and the main items being exported; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to boost the export of diversified jute goods?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) and (b). The exports of Diversified Jute Goods are gradually increasing. The trends of exports and the items figuring in the exports of the Diversified Jute Goods are indicated below :

Export of Diversified Jute Goods from India

(in Rupees/Million)

Products	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
Decorative Fabrics	2.30	3.39	10.34	43.06
Floor Coverings	26.96	80.93	181.97	277.08
Gift article Articles	9.82	17.72	22.73	23.25
Hand Shopping bags	21.18	56.06	143.42	139.47
Wall Hangings	26.07	27.20	56.17	41.00
Total	86.31	185.30	415.13	523.86

Taking 1992-93 as "Base Year" (86.31), it may be noticed from the table that the total Diversified Jute Goods exports have registered a growth of 11.5% in 1995-96.

(c) Export of Diversified Jute Products is an important area of priority of the Government. On its part, the JMDC takes all steps to increase export of DJP's by implementing "External Market Assistance (EMA)" Scheme for the exporters, participation in International Fairs, organising Buyer-Seller-Meets, Workshops, Sponsoring Overseas Delegations-Market Exploratory Missions etc. in order to generate demand, create awareness and explore new markets. UNDP's Jute Development Programme has also been instrumental to a great extent in acceleration the above efforts and focussing attention on market promotion of diversified jute products, the pace of export of which is accelerating as a result.

Performance of Central Bank of India

4302. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL :

SHRI MANGAL RAM PREMI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Central Bank is violating norms" appearing in 'Times of India' dated December 2, 1996;

(b) if so, the facts reported therein;

(c) whether RBI had conducted inspection of the Central Bank of India from 1994 to 1996;

(d) if so, the details of irregularities noticed;

(e) the action taken/proposed to be taken against the Central Bank of India for misrepresenting the facts to RBI; and

(f) the action proposed to be taken against RBI officials for not bringing the irregularities to light?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The operating results of the Central Bank of India have shown an improvement during 1995-96 as compared to the level of 1994-95. The un-reconciled Inter-branch entries covering the period upto March, 1994 also came down from 13.000 as on 31.12.1995 to 10,000 as on 31.3.1996. So far as inter-bank entries are concerned, even though the outstanding entries slightly increased from 11347 during 1994-95 to 11426 during 1995-96, there has been a substantial fall from 48553 outstanding entries to 12147 outstanding entries during the same period in Nostro Accounts. The CMDs of banks have been advised to bestow their personal attention and ensure concerted efforts to reconcile the outstanding entries in inter-bank accounts.

(c) Inspection for the financial years 1994 and 1995 has been completed. Inspection for 1996 financial year is yet to be completed by RBI.

(d) Some of the deficiencies reported by RBI inter alia included recurrent overstepping the delegated powers by functionaries at various levels, high proportion of Non performing assets, increase in the number of unreconciled inter-bank entries. However bank has been able to reduce arrears reconciliation of inter branch entries and entries in Nostro accounts.

(e) and (f). The inspecting officials of RBI report the deficiencies to the Senior Officers of the RBI who, in turn, hold meetings with the top management of the concerned banks. In the case of Central Bank of India a meeting with Chairman and Managing Director and other Executives was taken by Deputy Governor, ?? in August, 1996. In view of Bank's inability to attain the prescribed CRAR Capital to Risk Assets (Ratio) of 8 per cent by March, 1996, the Bank has been advised to contain credit expansion, not to incur any major capital expenditure and achieve the prescribed level of CRAR by March, 1997.

Long Term Loans by Public Sector Banks

4303. DR. C. SILVERA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Public Sector Banks are all set to compete with the Financial Institutions for lending long-term loans to the corporate clients at a cheaper rate;

(b) if so, the details thereof;